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ABSTRACT

Based on the view that intergenerational friendships between older adults and high school students enrich the lives of both groups, the Grandfriends Project is a program for bringing students and elderly members of the community together. High school students receive "basic training" for visiting a nursing home, are taught listening and interviewing techniques, experience ageism through simulations, and learn about careers working with the elderly. This document is comprised of the leader's guide, a student handbook, and reproducible assignment sheets for the program. The leader's guide includes information for residential care staff and school staff, basic planning questions and strategies, student recruitment and orientation sample, suggested tour sequence, and suggested sequence for on-site volunteer orientation and training. Leader's tips are presented for each of the chapters of the student handbook. Eight appendices in the leader's guide provide sample materials. The student handbook features a number of activities and assignments, including a final written report. The chapters are: (1) "Basic Training"; (2) "How We Change as We Age"; (3) "Rules, Regulations, Precautions"; (4) "Listening and Interviewing Techniques"; (5) "Making a Memory Book Gift"; (6) "Ideas for Expanding the Project"; (7) "Stereotypes, Ageism, and the Alternatives"; (8) "CD-ROM and On-Line Research"; (9) "The Stages of Aging"; (10) "Words Like 'Young' and 'Old'"; (11) "Consider a Career Helping Grandfriends"; and (12) "The Grandfriends Project Final Report-Writing Guide." The packet of reproducible assignment sheets includes interview sheets and practice exercises. (KB)

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